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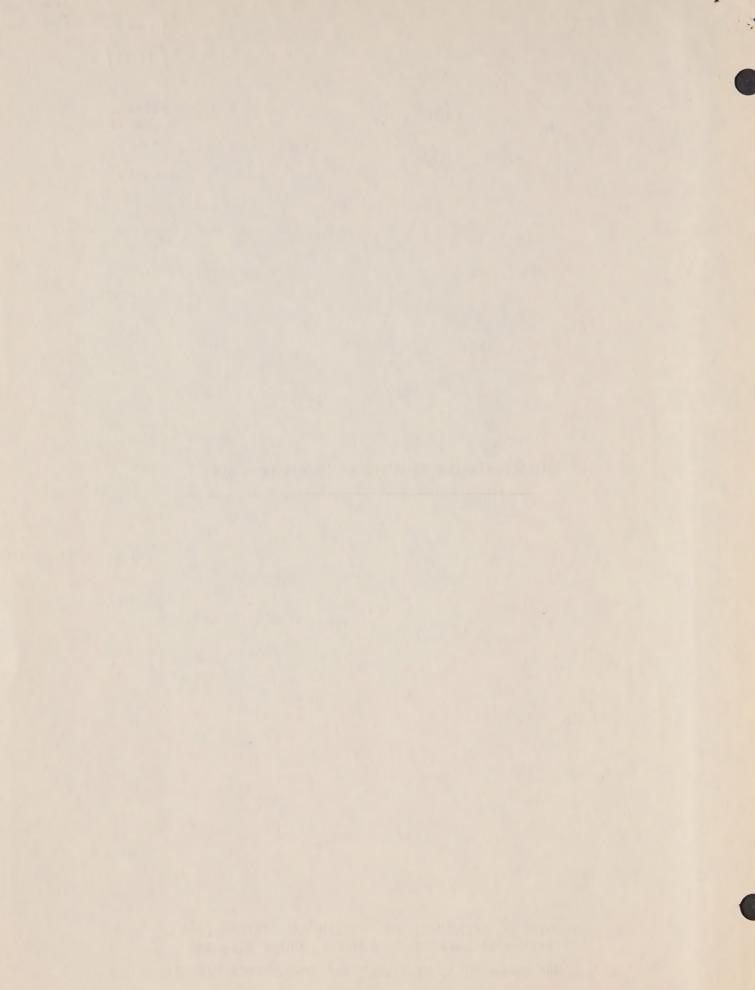


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Travel Research Branch

Report No. 64

CHARACTERISTICS OF VISITORS TO NORTHERN ONTARIO



# NORTHERN ONTARIO TOURIST OUTFITTERS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE - THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO NOVEMBER 2, 1970

"CHARACTERISTICS OF VISITORS TO NORTHERN ONTARIO"

An Address by Peter Klopchic, Ph.D. Director Travel Research Branch, Ontario Department of Tourism and Information, Toronto, Ontario

During the summer of 1969, the Ontario Department of Tourism and Information supervised a survey of U.S. passenger cars exiting from Ontario border points. The purpose of this survey was to discover the main characteristics of U.S. visitors to Ontario, their expenditure patterns, and other information of benefit to the Ontario tourist industry.

By this means we obtained a tremendous amount of data covering the province which will be published in report form in a few months. For this audience, we have extracted specific data concerning visitors to Northern Ontario.

Among other things, we discovered that during the period of survey (July, August and September of 1969) almost one-quarter of a million U.S. vehicles visited Northern Ontario; approximately one-third of them stayed less than 24 hours, and slightly more than two-thirds stayed one or more nights.

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You will be interested to know that in a comparison of U.S. visitor-expenditures by Ontario Economic Region, it was found that Niagara-Iroquoia Economic Region had the highest percentage (40%) of all tourist expenditure in the province, but the Northeastern Ontario Economic Region was second highest, with 14 per cent or approximately \$24 millions, and that approximately \$6 million was spent in the Nothwestern Ontario Economic Region (3 per cent of all U.S. tourist expenditure in Ontario during the survey period) for a total of approximately \$30 million in Northern Ontario.

U.S. tourist expenditure in Ontario during the survey period was approximately \$176 millions. (See Table No. 2:)

These figures are for U.S. tourists who travelled to Ontario by passenger car during July, August and September of 1969. Not included is U.S. tourist expenditure for the rest of the year, and of those who travelled by other modes of transportation.

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The Mid Atlantic Region, composed of the States of
New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, generated 15 per cent of
U.S. passenger cars to Northern Ontario, almost as many as the
West North Central Region. Obviously, those States closest to
Northern Ontario are your prime tourist market.

From a number of studies, we have determined that many American tourists are fairly regular visitors to your area, returning again and again. This is no doubt due to the nature of the attractions you have to offer. For instance, it is reasonable to assume that a visitor would come to Niagara Falls two or three times, and then the attraction might lose its "pull".

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We have found that almost half of them are in skilled and unskilled labour occupations. Thirty-four per cent are in professional and executive occupations. As a matter of fact you are more successful in attracting the latter affluent group than is the rest of the province. (See Table No. 5)

Next in size is the sales and clerical occupation group, followed by retired persons, and other miscellaneous occupations.

We asked U.S. visitors to Northern Ontario the amount of their annual family income and it was found that last year, this averaged \$11,670, and was approximately \$100 higher than that of American visitors to Southern Ontario. (See Table No. 6)

U.S. tourists stayed an average of more than five times longer in Northern Ontario than those visiting Southern Ontario.

The average length of stay per trip-party in Northern Ontario was 5.6 aights, compared with 1.3 nights in Southern Ontario.(See Table No. 7)



The average size per trip-party visiting Northern Ontario (3.3 persons) was about the same as those who visited Southern Ontario (3.2 persons). (See Table No. 8)

We asked U.S. visitors to Northern Ontario what was their main reason for selecting that particular part of the province as their destination. I am sure you will not be surprised to learn that the most frequently reported reason was "hunting and fishing" - reported by 15 per cent of all respondents. (See Table No. 9)

Tied for second place - and each reported by 14 per cent of respondents - were "camping/tenting" and "sightseeing away from cities".

Next in order was "to spend time at a vacation spot",
reported by 12 per cent of respondents, followed by "sightseeing in cities" by 11 per cent. "Visiting friends or relatives"
was reported as the main reason by 11 per cent of all respondents.

American visitors were also asked the reason for their initial interest in visiting Ontario. The one reported most often was "recommended by friends in the United States" (by 27 per cent of respondents). (See Table No. 10)



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per cent of 'respondents, and then "fishing and hunting" and
"recommended by friends in Ontario" - both reported by 8 per

cent. "Advertising" was mentioned by 6 per cent; "live close

- a convenient route", also by 6 per cent. "Business reasons"

were given by 1 per cent, and "other" by 30 per cent. This

latter rather large percentage of respondents, did not specify

how they first became interested in visiting Ontario.

Before concluding, I would like to give you some additional information on the tourist pattern in Northern Ontario.

Table No. 11 shows the number of non-resident

passenger cars entering Northern Ontario, staying one or more

nights in Canada, in 1969. As you may observe, 52 per cent of these

visitors entered the province directly at Fort Frances, Pigeon River or

Rainy River, and 48 per cent at Sault Ste. Marie. About 10 per cent more

U.S. visitors entered Northern Ontario from Manitoba, or indirectly from Quebec

or Southern Ontario. Sault Ste.Marie is the most important single

entry point for American visitors to Northern Ontario. This is

due partly to its central geographical position but also significant

is the fact that it is connected directly with a number of densely

populated and highly industrialized American States by means of

U.S. Interstate Highway 75. (See Graph No. I)



We have estimated that the total number of Canadian and U.S. visitors to Northern Ontario, by origin, for the year 1968 and including those arriving by all modes of transportarion, was:

Origin	Estimated Number of Visitors
U.S. residents	2 million (approximate)
Canadians (other provinces excluding Ontario)	2.3 million (very approximate)
Southern Ontario	0.9 million (approximate)
Estimated total -	5.2 million

These tourists spent approximately \$186 million in Northern Ontario during 1968.

Graph No. II illustrates the growth in rental units in motel and motor hotel accommodation in Northeastern and Northwestern Ontario, compared with Southern Ontario. As you can see, the number of motel and motor hotel units is growing three times faster in Northern Ontario than it is in the south. This is just one indication that the tourist industry in Northern Ontario is healthy, and is expanding rapidly. It is contributing to the development of this part of Ontario, and creating greater employment opportunities for residents.



Summarizing, we could say that the majority of U.S. visitors to Northern Ontario originate in bordering, or those States close to bordering States.

You attract primarily visitors in labouring occupations, as well as those in professional and executive groups.

Their main reasons for visiting your area are for hunting and fishing, camping, tenting, sightseeing away from cities and towns, and to spend time at a vacation spot.

These are reliable data on the characteristics of U.S. visitors to Northern Ontario and I hope you will find this information useful in planning your advertising and marketing programs.



A P P E N D I X



TABLE NO. 1

# ESTIMATED NUMBER OF U.S. VEHICLES WITH MAIN DESTINATION IN NORTHERN ONTARIO, SUMMER 1969 (JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER)

	Less Than 24 Hours	One or More Nights	Total <u>Vehicles</u>
Northern Ontario	76,000	169,000	245,000
Vehicles in Northern Ontario as per cent of Total Ontario	4.2%	15.9%	8.5%
Southern Ontario	1,737,000	894,000	2,631,000
Total	1,813,000	1,063,000	2,876,000



# ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE BY U.S. TRIP PARTIES IN NORTHERN ONTARIO, SUMMER, 1969

	Average Expenditure Per Trip Party	Total Expenditure (U.S.)
Northern Ontario	\$ 122.08	\$ 29.9 million
Southern Ontario	\$ 55.70	\$ 146.6 million
Total Ontario	\$ 61.36	\$ 176.5 million



# U.S. EXPENDITURE IN NORTHERN ONTARIO AS PER CENT OF U.S. EXPENDITURE IN WHOLE ONTARIO

North-Eastern Ontario	14%
North-Western Ontario	3%
Northern Ontario	17% (*)

<sup>(\*)</sup> Note: Compared to 8.5 per cent of total U.S. vehicles in Northern Ontario



## ORIGIN OF U.S. TRIP PARTIES TO NORTHERN ONTARIO

U.S. Regions	Per Cent of U.S. Vehicles in Northern Ontario
New England	0.9%
Mid-Atlantic	15.2
East-North Central	58.7
West-North Central	16.7
Mountain and Pacific	1.4
South Atlantic	4.3
South Central	2.6
Mexico, Other Non-U.S.	0.2
Total	100.0%



TABLE NO. 5

# OCCUPATION OF U.S. VISITORS TO NORTHERN ONTARIO

# AS COMPARED TO SOUTHERN ONTARIO

Occupation Head of Household	Per Cent in Northern Ontario	Per Cent in Southern Ontario
Professional	10%	14%
Executive	24	14
Sales, Clerical	9	15
Labour (Skilled, Unskilled)	48	46
Retired	6	6
Others	3	
Total	100%	100%



# ANNUAL INCOME OF U.S. VISITORS TO NORTHERN ONTARIO AS COMPARED TO SOUTHERN ONTARIO

Annual Average Income of U.S. Trip Party Head to Northern Ontario

\$ 11,670

Annual Average Income of U.S. Trip Party Head to Southern Ontario

\$ 11,572



## AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY OF U.S. VISITORS

Visitor Destination	Number of Nights
Northern Ontario	5.62
Southern Ontario	1.33



### TABLE NO. 8

### AVERAGE PARTY SIZE OF U.S. VISITORS

Party Destination	Party Size
Northern Ontario	3.34
Southern Ontario	3.22



TABLE NO. 9

## MAIN REASON FOR VISITING NORTHERN ONTARIO BY U.S. VISITORS, SUMMER, 1969, (COMPARED TO SOUTHERN ONTARIO)

Main Reason	Northern Ontario (in Per Cent)	Southern Ontario (in Per Cen	nt)
Hunting or fishing	15%	5%	(7)
Camping, tenting	14	2	(13)
Sightseeing away from cities	14	18	(1)
To spend time at a vacation spot	12	13	(3)
To visit friends/relatives	11	10	(4)
Sightseeing in cities	11	14	(2)
Combined business/pleasure	5	3	(10)
To stay at a summer place I own	4	3	(9)
Boating and other outdoor activities	4	4	(8)
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A convenient route	2	9	(6)
Other non-business reasons	2	10	(5)
Commuting to work	2	2	(12)
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TABLE NO. 10

# REASON FOR INITIAL INTEREST IN ONTARIO BY U.S. VISITORS IN NORTHERN ONTARIO, SUMMER, 1969 (COMPARED TO SOUTHERN ONTARIO)

Reason for Initial Interest	Northern Ontario (in Per Cent)	Southern Ontario (in Per Co	0
Recommended by friends in U.S.A.	27%	26%	(1)
Curiosity, just to see Canada	14	4	(5)
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Advertising	6	4	(7)
Live close, convenient route	6	10	(4)
Business	1	3	(8)
To see Niagara Falls	-	12	(2)
Other, not stated	_30	27	(9)
Total	100%	100%	



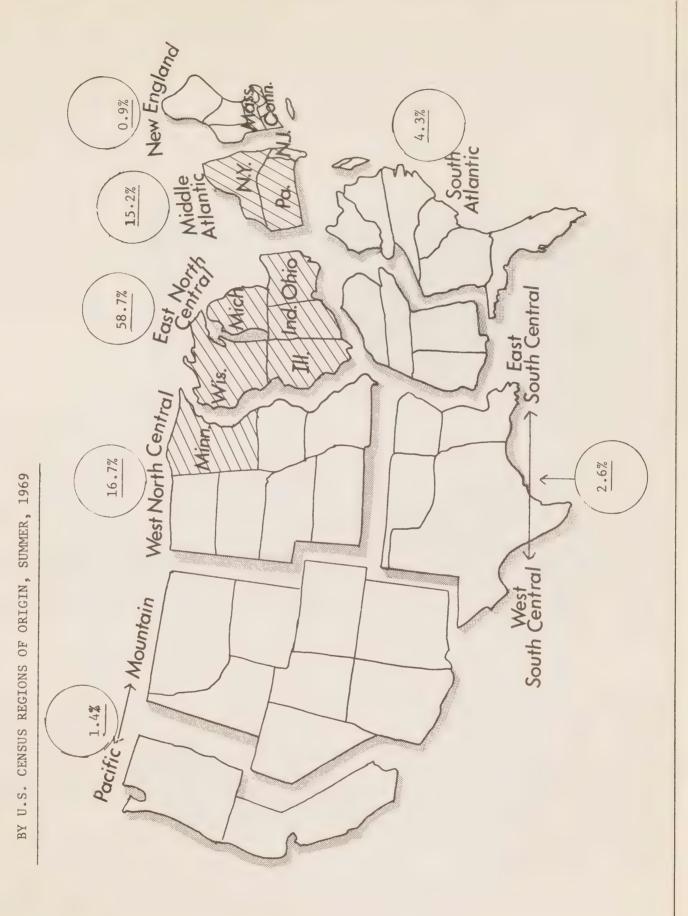
TABLE NO. 11

### NUMBER OF NON-RESIDENT PASSENGER CARS ENTERING NORTHERN ONTARIO AND STAYING ONE OR MORE NIGHTS IN CANADA DURING 1969

Port of Entry	Number	Per Cent
Fort Frances	98,339	
Pigeon River	58,044	
Rainy River	9,592	
(Sub-total)	165,975	52.2%
Sault Ste. Marie	152,101	47.8%
Total	318,076	100.0%



PER CENT OF U.S. TRIP-PARTIES TO NORTHERN ONTARIO,







TRAVEL RESEARCH BRANCH REPORT NO. 64

CHARACTERISTICS OF VISITORS

TO NORTHERN ONTARIO

(BASED ON U.S. AUTO EXIT SURVEY, 1969)

THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND INFORMATION PROVINCE OF ONTARIO TORONTO CANADA HON. JAMES AULD, MINISTER A.S. BRAY, DEPUTY MINISTER



## NORTHERN ONTARIO TOURIST OUTFITTERS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE - THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO

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Among other things, we discovered that during the period of survey (July, August and September of 1969) almost one-quarter of a million U.S. vehicles visited Northern Ontario; approximately one-third of them stayed less than 24 hours, and slightly more than two-thirds stayed one or more nights.



This one-quarter of a million U.S. vehicles visiting in Northern Ontario represented 8.5 per cent of all U.S. vehicles travelling in Ontario during the period of survey. I would like to point out, however, that this 8.5 per cent of the total number of U.S. vehicles in Ontario generated 17 per cent of all U.S. tourist expenditure in the province during this period. (See Tables Nos. 1 and 3.)

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Others	3	5
Total	100%	100%



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Advertising	6	4 (7	7)
Live close, convenient route	6	10 (4	+)
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East North 58.7% West North Central 16.7% PER CENT OF U.S. TRIP-PARTIES TO NORTHERN ONTARIO, BY U.S. CENSUS REGIONS OF ORIGIN, SUMMER, 1969 → Mountain 1.4% Pacifice

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South Central

2.6%

0.9%

15.2%



